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New U.S. Disarmament Delegation Strong, Balanced and Informed

If there is any phase of experience with or knowledge of the Russians and the situations to be faced in negotiating with them that has not been covered in the selection of the new U.S. disarmament delegation, it would be difficult to find.

James J. Wadsworth, now deputy delegate to the United Nations, is taking over from Harold Stassen as the chief negotiator for this country (actual conferences even begin again). He is a shrewd, experienced and tough operator. Aside from his contacts with the wider scale of Russian performances at the United Nations, he was a top member of the U.S. disarmament delegation in 1955. He knows the U.S. position, he knows the Russian disposition, and he has no political ambitions.

Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, now retired, was a former commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. From his experience in that capacity he is fully acquainted with the workings of the minds of our European allies, their military capacities and the extent to which they are willing to stand with the United States against Russian blandishment or threat.

Robert B. Lovett formerly served as U.S. Secretary of Defense. That gives him a background of actual knowledge of this country's military problems, of political pressures, inter-service feelings and Administration aims.

John J. McCloy was at one time United States high commissioner for Germany. Most of the foundation for the prosperity that is West Germany's today, as far as application of U.S. policy was concerned, was laid by him. He knows the problems

that beset the German people in connection with disarmament and the closely related issue of unification, both of which must be considered as integral elements in any disarmament negotiations.

Walter Bedell Smith brings the intimate knowledge gained from three years as ambassador to Moscow, knowledge that must have been considerably buttressed by his tenure as director of the Central Intelligence Agency. His experience as military commander will not detract

from his ability to serve either. With that knowledge, it is difficult to see how any angles that are paramount in disarmament discussions have been overlooked. None of these men is likely to be an advocate of compromise or concession or appeasement. None is likely to be

out of order in carrying out his duties. All are accustomed to testing and proving. None is likely to assume responsibility that goes beyond the directives that come from the White House or the State Department. None has ever attempted to intrude into the national political scene.

It is a top-flight combination. The continuing Russian transience at resuming disarmament negotiations under the aegis of the United Nations does not hold much hope that the new team will be sent out into a cold. The Kremlin prefers to handle it at the summit, and rejection of the U.N. proposals is but one of the clubs the Russians are using in their efforts to round up the heads of state for a meeting.

But if ever the time comes for Wadsworth, Gruenther, McCloy and Smith to go to work, the Nation can have confidence in their ability to do the best that can be had.